

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the Application. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-12 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Further amendments include changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and amending dependent claims to begin with "The" as opposed to "A". By these amendments, claims 1-12 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicant furthermore reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

In the Office Action, restriction is required as between claims 1-6, designated as Group I; claims 7-9, designated as Group II; and claims 10-12, designated as Group III.

This restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

Election of Species Under Traverse

In response, as a formality merely to comply with 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant hereby preliminarily elects claims 1-6, designated as Group I, for an examination on the merits.

Arguments in Support of Traversal of Restriction

The Office Action states that "[t]he inventions are distinct ... [i]n the instant case the blade of group I doesn't need to be bent while the method of group II can be used to make any sort of hardened metal body with an edge. These positions are respectfully refuted.

Group I, claim 1 explicitly recites in pertinent part a "razor blade comprising: an edge portion with a cutting edge, and a further portion, the edge portion being bent relative to the further portion in a bending zone spaced from said cutting edge..." Group II, claim 7 recites in pertinent part a "method of

manufacturing a razor blade from a razor blade blank, the method comprising acts of: forming an edge portion of the razor blade blank with a cutting edge and a further portion; bending the edge portion relative to the further portion; hardening the razor blade blank by a heat treatment; and reheating, after hardening of the razor blade blank, a portion of the razor blade blank locally to bend the edge portion of the razor blade blank relative to the further portion of the razor blade blank." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the method of the group II claims may not be utilized to make any type of hardened metal body as asserted in the office action since the method is a method of forming a razor blade blank and each of the acts recited therein relate to a razor blade blank.

Regarding groups I and III, claim 1 is amended to clarify that the "the edge portion being bent relative to the further portion in a bending zone spaced from said cutting edge by a bending device", accordingly, the assertion that the razor blade of claims 1-6 may be made by hand and then reheated, is respectfully refuted. It is respectfully submitted that the razor blade of claim 1 is clearly made by a device, such as the device of claims 10-12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction

between groups I, II and III be withdrawn and that claims 1-12 be examined on the merits and be allowed.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Patent
Serial No. 10/561,468
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2008

Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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